

Energy conservation,
bill-payer assistance and
consumer protection information

The websites listed below provide up-to-date information on current and new programs for energy conservation and energy bill-payer assistance. Consumers should also be aware that our current energy situation may tempt unscrupulous businesses to engage in consumer fraud by offering bogus energy conservation services, products or alternative energy devices.

Two websites, one for the California Department of Consumer Affairs (with a link to the Better Business Bureau) and another for the Federal Trade Commission, offer energy conservation product information as well as information and assistance to help you avoid consumer fraud or to file consumer complaints if you feel you have been cheated.

Consumer Protection

www.dca.ca.gov The California Department of Consumer Affairs website has a link to the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) to assist you in researching companies with which you wish to do business or in filing consumer complaints. (1-800-952-5210)

www.ftc.gov/bcp/menu-enviro.htm The Federal Trade Commission website provides information on energy efficient products and consumer protection. (1-877-FTC-HELP/1-877-382-4357)

State and Federal Government Websites

www.consumerenergycenter.org The California Energy Commission website provides energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy resources information as well as links to related websites. (1-800-555-7794)

http://fypower.org/ The State of California Flex Your Power website presents updated information on energy issues, energy conservation and renewable energy resources with links to related websites. (1-800-232-4685)

www.cpuc.ca.gov The California Public Utilities Commission website provides information on utility rate regulation, energy conservation and ratepayer assistance programs. (1-213-576-7000)

www.csd.ca.gov/LIHEAP.html The State of California Department of Community Services and Development website contains information on low-income energy assistance. (1-916-322-2940)

www.aiso.com The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) website contains real time information on the energy demand and supply balance and status of statewide emergency alerts. (1-916-351-4400).

www.energystar.gov This joint US Department of Energy and US Environmental Protection Agency website describes the federal voluntary energy efficiency product labeling program, Energy Star, and offers information on energy efficient products and practices. (1-888-STAR-YES/1-888-782-7937)

www.eere.energy.gov/ The US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Network (EREN) website provides information on energy conservation products, programs and practices and on bill-payer assistance programs. (1-510-637-1952)

www.savepower.lbl.gov This Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory website provides an interactive energy scorecard to help consumers save enough energy to qualify for the state's 20/20 program rebate.

Flex Your Power

Important Phone Numbers for Home Energy Audits, Surveys and Other Energy Efficiency Information:

State of California Flex Your Power **1-800-232-4685**
http://fypower.org/

L.A. Department of Water and Power **1-800-342-5397**
www.ladwp.com

Smarter Energy Hotline: **1-800-933-9555**

California Energy Commission **1-800-772-3300**
http://energy.ca.gov

If you need assistance in accessing these programs and resources, please call the Assembly District Office at 323-937-4747.

Energy Saving Tips

- **Refrigerator** – Give the unit breathing room and clean the coils.
Savings: 1.7% of monthly energy use.

Replace your 10-year old or older refrigerator with an Energy Star® labeled energy-efficient refrigerator.
Savings: 8% of monthly energy usage
- **2nd Refrigerator** – Unplug and recycle your second refrigerator.
Savings: 9% of monthly energy usage
- **Lighting** – Turn off three 75 watt lights that operate 2 hours per night.
Savings: 2% of monthly energy usage
- Replace four 100 watt incandescent lamps with four 27 watt Compact Fluorescent Lamps.
Savings: 6% of monthly energy usage
- **Thermostat** – You can save 5-10% of your heating costs by setting your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower during the day, health permitting.
- Set your thermostat at 55 degrees at night or when you're away for more than four hours.
- On sunny winter days, open drapes to keep rooms warm naturally.
- And to get a better handle on your heating costs, install an Energy Star® labeled programmable thermostat.
Savings: 3% of monthly energy usage
- **Water Heater** – Wrap your older model water heater with a water heater blanket.
Savings: .87 therms
- Replace water heater if ten years or older.
Savings: 2.6 therms

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Look Inside for Helpful Energy Conservation
and Bill Assistance Information



A Quick Guide to
**RESIDENTIAL
ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS**



Conservation
and bill
assistance
programs
to help get
you through
the energy
crunch



KAREN BASS
ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 47TH DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Californians depend on reliable, safe and affordable electric service especially during the summer months when the temperatures rise.

This is the time when the demand for power will also rise and it is important for everyone to work together to conserve energy.

This brochure lists ways to reduce the use of electricity and natural gas with other helpful, inexpensive, energy saving tips. It also includes websites with useful information on energy supplies, conservation efforts and bill-payer assistance programs.

Energy conservation succeeds when everyone participates.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the district office at (323) 937-4747.

Capitol Office:

State Capitol • P.O. Box 942849 • Sacramento, CA 94249-0047 • (916) 319-2047

District Office:

5750 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 565 • Los Angeles, CA 90036 • (323) 937-4747

Website:

www.assembly.ca.gov/bass

Residential Conservation and Bill-Payer Assistance Programs

The State of California has many inexpensive ideas to help you reduce residential energy costs and increase the comfort of your home. In addition, utilities and other government agencies offer financial and technical assistance programs to keep energy costs from controlling your budget.

Step 1: Conduct an Audit

The key is to view your home as an energy system with interdependent parts. For example, you may have a top of the line, energy-efficient air conditioner, but if the ducts leak, walls and attic are not properly insulated, and windows are not sealed, energy bills will remain high. Taking a whole-house approach to saving energy ensures that you will see real financial benefits from your investments in energy efficiency.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) offers its customers a free online energy audit. LADWP's Home Energy Analysis tool lets customers compare their home energy use with similar homes and find ways to lower energy bills. Customers who complete the online audit receive free compact fluorescent lamps (CFL). Go to www.ladwp.com to learn more. For Southern California Edison clients, go to www.sce.com to find out more.

Step 2: Start with free or inexpensive energy-saving improvements

- **Turn down the thermostat during the winter.** Thermostats should be set no higher than 72°F during the day and evening when people are home. Save up to 3% on your heating bill for each degree the thermostat is set below 72° F.
- **Turn off the lights when not needed.** It is a myth that leaving them on uses less energy than turning them off.
- **Replace heavily-used lighting.** Switch incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR qualified cfls.

- **Use pots and pans that fit the burners.** Pans that fit a burner absorb more of the energy, reducing the amount of heat that is lost. Keep oven and burners clean. A clean oven uses energy more efficiently.
- **Use appliances wisely.** To help prevent electricity outages, avoid running your major appliances during peak hours (from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) or anytime an electricity emergency is declared.
- **Unplug or recycle extra refrigerators.** Many of these older and secondary units use as much as 40% more energy than newer models.
- **Close drapes, blinds and shades** to keep the sun's rays out of the home during the warmer months.
- **Weatherize your home.** Weatherstrip, seal and caulk leaky doors and windows, and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- **Cook during temperate hours.** Avoid preparing meals that require you to use your range or oven extensively on hot days. This helps to reduce the load on your air conditioner and makes you feel more comfortable in your home.
- **Run the dishwasher only when fully loaded.** If necessary, scrape dirty dishes (with cold rather than hot water) and store them in the dishwasher until you have a full load.
- **Wash in cold water.** Today's laundry detergents are made to clean clothes in cold water. The majority of energy used for washing clothes comes from heating water. This saves 4%.
- **Check the gasket in your refrigerator** for gaps and improper fit. The gasket is the soft plastic piece that seals the door to the body of the refrigerator. The door should close firmly against the gasket. If it doesn't, cold air will leak out of the refrigerator.

See Flex Your Power's **Energy Saving Tips** for more easy ways to reduce your electric bill at <http://fypower.org/>.

Step 3: See if you qualify for your utility's Energy Bill Assistance Programs

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)**
LHEAP offers financial assistance to offset the costs of heating and/or cooling homes, and home weatherization measures that make homes more energy efficient. Select community-based agencies process LIHEAP applications for customers. Priority is given to people spending a high percentage of their income on energy and families with elderly or disabled members, or children under three years of age.
- **Temporary Financial Hardship**
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) offers programs that help low-income customers — particularly the elderly, disabled, sick, working poor and the unemployed — pay energy bills when faced with a hardship. LADWP also has partial payment programs and payment extensions for people experiencing a difficulty paying their bill. Contact the LADWP at 1-800-342-5397 for more information.

Step 4: Upgrade your home

A typical California home is spending more on electricity than necessary. The average household could cut a third — or even half — of its current energy bill by switching to energy-efficient appliances, equipment and lighting, which use less energy than standard products. An energy-efficient cfl, for example, uses at least 66% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs for the same lighting level!

Every product that uses electricity has two costs: the one on the price tag and the one on your monthly utility bills. For some energy-wasting products, the actual cost to run the product may be many times greater than the cost to purchase it. On the other hand, energy-efficient products often pay for themselves in energy savings. Log on to www.flexyourpower.com or www.energystar.gov to learn more.

